

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please add the following new paragraph to the Brief Description of The Drawings section of the Application after the paragraph ending at Page 3, line 13 describing FIG. 1:

FIG. 1A shows an exploded view of the present invention positioned between a moveable die block and a stationary die block.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 5, line 24 and ending at Page 5, line 28, with the following paragraph:

In addition to the components illustrated, Figures 1 and 2 also incorporate a fixed-die half E (FIG. 1A~~not shown~~), to which die block D is clamped, enclosing core C to create the complete molding or casting core. Alternatively, die block D may be a fixed-die half and a movable-die half would clamp to die block D, enclosing core C to create the complete molding or casting core. As such, references to a movable-die half are only intended to be illustrative, and the slide assembly of the present invention is capable of being mounted to either a movable-die half and a fixed-die half.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 6, line 21 and ending at Page 6, line 27, with the following paragraph:

The use of base 24 precludes the need to individually design or adapt slide 26 to be compatible with die block D. Slide 26 is completely entrained and mobile from within base 24, allowing universal slide assembly 22 to be installed into many different movable-die halves without requiring slide 26 to be individually designed or adapted to a particular mounting location M~~402~~. As such, universal slide assembly 22 may be installed, exchanged, and replaced with minimal time and expense.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 8, line 24 and ending at Page 9, line 2, with the following paragraph:

Cam lever 28 is removably insertable into slide 26 and through base 24 from above, and includes head 44 and tail 46. When cam lever 28 is inserted into slide 26 and base 24, head 44 of cam lever 28 extends vertically from the top of slide ~~26-12~~, and tail 46 of cam lever 28 extends through slide 26 and base 24, and into block slot B of die block D. This arrangement mechanically locks slide 26 to base 24, preventing slide 26 from moving forward or retracting, and provides an additional locking system to the hydraulic locking from coupling 34.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 9, line 3 and ending at Page 9, line 12, with the following paragraph:

Cam lever 28 also provides a second means for moving slide 26 relative to base 24 via cam action. When universal slide assembly 22 is installed into an injection molding or die casting apparatus, base 24 is mounted to a movable-die half D of the apparatus (FIG. 1A~~not shown~~), and head 44 of cam lever 28 is directly attached to a fixed-die half E of the apparatus (FIG. 1A~~not shown~~). As illustrated in Figure 4, head 44 is positioned at an angle to tail 46. When the movable-die half retracts from the fixed-die half, cam lever 28 is pulled out of base 24 and through slide 26. As cam lever 28 raises, the angle of tail 46 mechanically forces slide 26 to retract along base 24. This in turn pulls face plate 32 away from the molding core allowing the mold to be released.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 10, line 24 and ending at Page 11, line 4, with the following paragraph:

Magnet 50 is connected to slide 26 via magnet holder 52~~holder magnet 27~~, which is retained in slide bore 68. When slide 26 moves forward to a position along

base 24 where magnet 50 and switch 40a are in close proximity, switch 40a closes, signaling the source of hydraulic pressure to prevent further forward progression of slide 26 along base 24. Correspondingly, if slide 26 retracts to a position along base 24 where magnet 50 and switch 42a are in close proximity, switch 42a closes, signaling the source of hydraulic pressure to prevent further retraction progression of slide 26 along base 24. Additionally, as previously discussed, leads 40 and leads 42 may provide signals for other components of the molding or casting system. As such, leads 40 and 42 allow for monitoring and limiting the position of slide 26 along base 24.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 13, line 14 and ending at Page 13, line 19, with the following paragraph:

Figure 9c is a bottom view of slide 26 of universal slide assembly 22, as described in Figures 3-6, 9a, and 9b. When slide 26 is moved forward, the portion of slot 70 at the bottom surface of slide 26, illustrated in Figure 9c, lines up with slot 80 ~~48~~ of base 24. This allows tail 46 of cam lever 28 to extend through both slot 70 of slide 26 and slot 80-34 of base 24-12, preventing slide 26 from pulling away from the core.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 15, line 28 and ending at Page 16, line 6, with the following paragraph:

Unlike base 24, base 124 does not incorporate a tail slot, such as tail slot 80 of base 24. Because cam lever 128 does not extend into base 124 to lock slide 26 ~~113~~ with base 124, a tail slot is not required, which reduces costs in manufacturing base 124. Alternatively, a base such as base 24 with tail slot 80 may be used in place of base 124 without any hindrance of performance in universal slide assembly 122.

As such, base 124 may incorporate an assortment of features to accommodate a variety of molding and casting systems.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 18, line 1 and ending at Page 18, line 16, with the following paragraph:

The distinction between base 324 and both base 24 and base 124, is that base 324 is axially longer, providing a greater range for slide 26 to move forward and retract. Preferably, base 24 and base 124 provide a three-inch range of movement for slide 26. That is, front coupler bores 36, 136 and rear coupler bores 38, 138 are preferably separated by a distance of three inches. In comparison, base ~~324~~ 312 preferably provides a four-inch range of movement (i.e., four inches between front coupler bore 336 and rear coupler bore 338). This greater range allows for insertion and retraction of longer components attached to face plate 32, which would not be possible with base 24 or base 124, and adds to the versatility of the present invention. Figure 20 is a perspective view of universal slide assembly 422, a third alternative design of universal slide assembly 22 incorporating an axially shorter base. Universal slide assembly 422 includes slide 26, face plate 32, leads 40, leads 42, and cam lever 128, which connect and interact as described in Figures 3-6 and 11-14. Universal slide assembly 422 further includes base 424, which includes front coupler bore 436 and rear coupler bore 438, which are identical to front lead bore 36 and rear leads bore 38.

Please replace the paragraph starting at Page 18, line 25 and ending at Page 19, line 9, with the following paragraph:

Universal slide assembly 422 does not include coupling 34. Due to the short range of movement by slide 26, cam lever 128 provides enough cam action movement to meet the limited need. However, universal slide assembly 422 may

also include coupling 34, connected to slide 26 as previously discussed, without hindrance in performance. Additionally, as illustrated, cam action is preferably provided by cam lever 128. Due to the limited range of movement of slide 26, a lever with a long tail, such as cam lever 28 is not required, as it would provide too much cam action movement. However, universal slide assembly 422 may alternatively incorporate a lever with a differing length, such as cam lever 128 or cam lever 228, as individual processing may require. Although the present invention has been described with reference to preferred embodiments, workers skilled in the art will recognize that changes may be made in form and detail without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.